

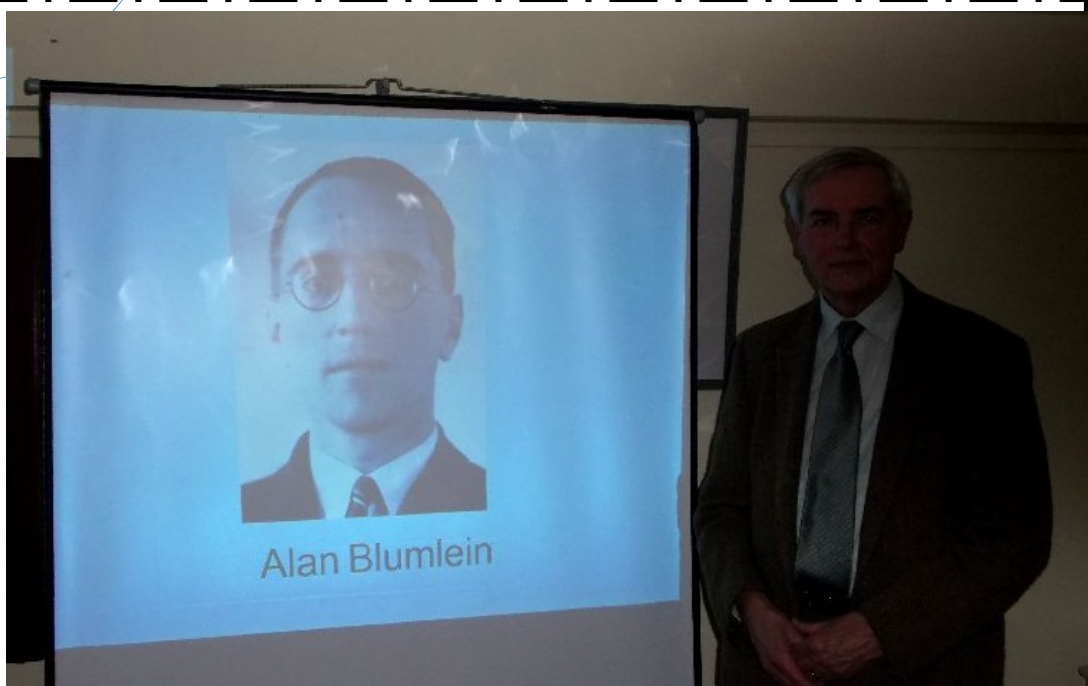


Mid Sussex Matters

February 2016

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On Friday 29th January we had an excellent talk entitled 'A Brief Life of a lost British Genius'. This was about Alan Dower Blumlein. He was an EMI engineer and he worked on binaural sound. He died in 1942 while working on a top secret government radar project aged 38.

Please Do Not Forget It Is Your Magazine

I am hoping to go to print each month for this I need copy from any one of you however small and it **may or may not be** radio related.

Request for copy around 6th—10th with copy to me by the 15thth of each month. If there is no copy there will be no MSM simple as that. Best Wishes

Stella, Editor of MSM



LICENCE VALIDATION REMINDER

I'm sure you all have heard about the recent Amateur Radio Licences that have been revoked by Ofcom.

It has been drawn to my attention that Ofcom are looking at revoking a further (wait for it) 15,000 Amateur Radio Licences that have not been re-validated, the bulk of which are Full Licences some 9,500 of them.

I would urge everyone to check their licence has been re-validated

One local amateur thought he had re-validated his licence but for whatever reason it had not and his licence has been revoked.

It's easy to check on Ofcom's online licensing, just login with your details.

A screenshot of the Ofcom Online Licensing Services page. The page has a header with the Ofcom logo and a navigation menu on the left. The main content area is titled "Ofcom Online Licensing Services" and includes a "Login" section with input fields for "Username or Registered email address" and "Password", a "Login" button, and a link for "Forgotten your password?". There is also a "Help and assistance" section at the bottom with links for "Guidance notes" and "Contact Spectrum Licensing".

Ofcom Online Licensing Services

Are you a new user?
[Register as a new individual user](#) | [Register a new organisation user](#)

Login for registered users

Username or Registered email address:

Password:

[Forgotten your password?](#)

Help and assistance
[Guidance notes](#)
[Contact Spectrum Licensing](#)

Then make sure the box circled (as shown on the next page) is of a date in the future.

IF NOT RE-VALIDATE NOW

LICENCE VALIDATION REMINDER CONTINUED



Ofcom Online Licensing Services

Your licensing overview

Welcome YOUR NAME

Licences [Refresh]

Licence number	Licence type	Date issued	Validation due	Actions
1 2107 1 100 10	Amateur Full Radio Licence	07/04/2015	09/12/2020	View/print (pdf) Amend licence details Validate Surrender

[Refresh]

Applications/variations in progress

Application name	Application type	Date started	Last updated	Actions
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Apply for a new licence

Select a licence type:

[Start application process](#)

Help and assistance

[Guidance notes](#)
[Contact Spectrum Licensing](#)

If you still have any doubts or you don't use the online licensing it may be worth a phone call to Ofcom licensing to check on 0300 123 1000 or 020 7981 3131

Adrian M0TCD

BT Infinity. Fibre Optic - Fault finding.

It only took about six months to sort it!!

In an effort to improve my internet speed I decided to upgrade to the BT infinity Fibre optic system as it had just become available to my area.

The thought of 35 to 40 Mbit speed seemed too good to be true.

My previous link was so slow I am sure that a Carrier Pigeon would have been light years faster.

The work was duly done and all seemed well for a short while or so I thought.

Ever since I upgraded I have had trouble with the Router dropping out causing loss of the internet and my computer losing its Wi-Fi link.

Now this was a pain in the backside as it always seemed to happen just as I sent an Email which promptly disappeared into the ether never to be seen again.

I always save as a draft now, just in case!

A call to B.T. to arrange an engineer to come and check the line.

When he arrived I told him that to my knowledge the whole phone system had not been checked or serviced in at least 35 years of my residence at the property. It makes one wonder just what the line rental fee goes to!

The interface box into my home was looking very second-hand. He carried out the usual line checks with his test gear and said that my line speed was about 2.3 Mbit so not much improvement there then. Where did the other 30 + Mbit go to?

He then checked the interface box outside and had to re-terminate the internal connections as they were in a terrible state.

He also replaced the internal wall box which the phone connects to as this was obsolete and had been updated with better filters etc. The line was then re-checked and the speed had improved to a mind blowing 36 Mbit. Wow.

At last I thought that it might work properly now. He then left saying that he had carried out all the checks that he was authorised to do and to give it some time to settle.

Anyway my hopes of a good connection to the net were short lived as the problem reappeared again, still being a patient type I waited to see if it would settle down, [Who was I kidding].

BT infinity. Fibre Optic - Fault finding Continued

It only took about six months to sort it!!

So I made another call to B.T. to report that the fault had returned.

Another visit from them was arranged.

This time the engineer found more faults with the line and checked all the links to the main box up the road.

He also replaced the router with another one that was of the same type. A new Home Hub 5, Type A. I can't remember if he also changed the old PSU.

The line was then re-checked and the broadband system reset and the speed was confirmed as expected at around 37 Mbit. He left saying to give it a while to settle down. Haven't I heard that before somewhere.

Sorted or so I thought, anyhow the fault had not gone away like some of my Emails and a good connection to the Net.

Now trying to get it all sorted had taken ages and I noticed that the loss of signal seemed to be fairly regular at or about every 63 minutes or so but not always that regular.

I even made a spread sheet to log the times that it failed. All very interesting!

Again more calls to B.T. to arrange for yet another engineer [No 3] to come and try to sort this mess out.

I was getting pretty hacked off, paying for a fast broadband service that I was not getting.

This time I stayed in for 5 Hours waiting for the engineer to show up, needless to say he did not appear which totally P***** me off.

I phoned B.T. yet again complaining about the lack of service.

I was assured that the engineer was investigating the fault at the main exchange or the big green box up the road.

It would have been nice if I was informed about this, as far as I was concerned it was a no show and said that I would be seeking compensation or talking to the media in the near future. I think they started to listen to me then.

Another appointment was made for the following day.



BT infinity. Fibre Optic - Fault finding Continued

It only took about six months to sort it!!

Engineer No3 duly arrived and said that he knew nothing about the previous day's appointment.

He only gets his next job when he logged off the last one on his company smart phone, so much for working at the exchange the previous day. Someone is telling porky pies me thinks.

Now I am not blaming the Engineers as they have a difficult job to do and can only carry out specific fault finding within a time frame or they will get it in the neck from their managers. Something to do with lack of Productivity !!!

And meeting targets etc.

No3 engineer was very competent and carried out a full check of the line and the broadband system; he even explained to me all the tests he was carrying out and I was satisfied that the existing system was as good as it would ever be. He explained about R.E.I.N. Random Electrical Interference Noise and was discussing the possibility of R.F. Interference affecting the router. Also it might be worth checking for R.F. pulses on 612 KHz as this was a known source of interference.

This got me thinking outside the box and trying to isolate other sources of possible interference, I even went knocking on the neighbours doors to ask if they had a similar problem.

All this time B.T. had kept me informed about the next visit by text and checked that I was satisfied that the fault had been rectified.

Which of course it had not and was still ongoing. I was not a happy bunny.

What was causing the Home Hub 5 to lose its sync to the internet? I even tried moving the hub to another power point and disconnecting everything that I thought might cause a problem.

There was a definite sequence to the fault lights on the hub when it lost its sync to the net.

Orange solid. Green solid. Green flash. Blue solid. Orange flash. Orange slow flash. Orange solid. Blue.

**Continued
On Page 9**

From the President's Corner

Not the best of weather to get you excited about getting out and improving your HF antennas but with the fall off in conditions that's what you should be doing!

OK then, if the weather is too bad then at least give some thought as to what you'll be up to when it improves. On my part I'm seriously considering the possibility of getting some gain from my wires which means that the Delta Loop might just be replaced with something else around Easter time.

Meantime we continue to work most of our American friends with some success, both the HF nets are well attended by MSARS members and others that join us despite my not being able to make it every day.

HF conditions are challenging with DX out there but not always audible above the noise, but at least there are stations to work if you are persistent (or get up to Devil's Dyke at 3am like one of our members) and the better your antenna the more chance you have of working something new.

I know that's not everyone's ambition so think instead of the construction contest which allows you to sit at home in the warm and make something to amaze your fellow members and which might just win you one of the trophies.

There is always something to do at MSARS of course and if you can't find anything else to do just turn up on a Friday night for a natter and a drink among friends.

Remember it's YOUR Radio Club and for you to enjoy.

73, Ken G3WYN

Diary Dates February—March 2016

19-Feb	Friday	Downstairs	Radio Night and Table Top Sale
26-Feb	Friday	Downstairs	Radio Night
04-Mar	Friday	Downstairs	Radio Night and Table Top Sale
11-Mar	Friday	Downstairs	Amanda Millar - Bat Talk
18-Mar	Friday	Downstairs	Radio Night and Table Top Sale
25-Mar	Friday	CLOSED	Good Friday

Mid Sussex ARS Net Times—all times local

Sunday	0800	3.740MHz⁺/.QRM
Sunday	1100	145.350MHz
Weekdays	1330	21.330MHz⁺/.QRM
Tuesday	2030	3.725MHz⁺/.QRM (SCARF)
Wednesday	2000	145.350MHz

**GB3HY is now working on the new frequency:
Listen 430.900Mhz, Transmit 438.500Mhz,
CTCSS 88.5hz**

BT infinity. Fibre Optic - Fault finding Continued

It only took about six months to sort it!!

The same sequence every time. Every time the router dropped out I knew because my mobile sent a jingle to signify it had lost the Wi-Fi link.

Still no luck. More phone calls to B.T.

Engineer No4 duly arrived and I explained all the previous visits and all the work done to try to resolve this ongoing problem. It can be a bit difficult trying to retain ones cool in such situations, but we talked it all through and he thought that there might be a problem with the fibre optic port so he went to the green box up the road and connected his test gear to the port and waited to see if the same fault showed there, the drop outs were very predictable as we could refer to my spread sheet of previous dropout times.

While he was away doing remote testing I noticed that the router was still showing a solid orange light as was to be expected as it was disconnected from the network but still powered up, however it changed to a blue light briefly and this got me thinking about the switched mode power supply, one of those horrible cheap Chinese things that kick out R.F. all over the place. Sure enough it was very noisy at 612 kHz. And as stable as a bottle of Nitro Glycerine on a Roller Coaster.

Upon the return of engineer No4 he said that he could find no fault at the fibre optic port and said that he would again change the router for another new one. We tried to fit it to the existing power supply but this had also been redesigned so we had to use the matching new PSU as well. It had a smaller DC plug so would not fit the old router.

As it turned out it was a wise move.

I also moved the router to yet another power point further away from the party wall next door as a further precaution, but it is not a good idea to change too many things when doing these types of diagnostic / substitution tests.

At this point the engineer had to go to another job locally but would return later, I said that I would monitor the new set up to see if it would drop out at the predicted time some 20 minutes later.



BT infinity. Fibre Optic - Fault finding Continued

It only took about six months to sort it!!

During that time I took a look at the old router and PSU noting that it was a Home Hub 5, type A. rated at 12 volts at 1.5 amps. The PSU was also rated 12v at 1500ma.

Interestingly the new router was a Home Hub 5, type B. rated at 12volts at 2.0 amps. The PSU was also rated at 12v at 2.0 Amps.

Now outwardly both routers looked the same and so far the new router had not disconnected from the net, but the new router was now powered by a higher power PSU and was much quieter when I looked at it with my scanner set to 612khz.

Conclusion;

Since changing the router and PSU to a Home Hub 5.TypeB unit the broadband has remained stable and has not dropped out once. AT LAST, SUCCESS.

It is my opinion that the Old Switched Mode PSU was not able to cope with the demands of the router and was shutting down briefly due to a thermal overheat situation. I have to conclude that this was caused by a gradual heat build-up which caused the router to have a component failure or actuate a thermal fuse or automatic shutdown system.

I do not have any information or circuit diagram about the old switched mode PSU

This would then cause the router to lose power which would then disconnect it from the internet and cause it to lose sync from the internet. However briefly it was enough to make it do a reboot every time.

Hopefully all is now resolved. But I still need to return it to its original position on the party wall, [hopefully that won't cause any problems] after it has had a 24 hr soak test, or make up even longer cat 5 cables to drape across the carpet. SHMBO won't like that hi hi.

Watch this space!!

Chris Cook G0GMC

MSARS. 11/01/2016.

The End

Happy Times: by W1GN.

I was licensed as G3HWU in November 1951 having passed the RAE earlier that year in the merry month of May.

But the real catalyst in the introduction of ham radio to me and my other 2 pals Jack G3KKP and Jim G4MH, was Alan Reader now G0CRJ. At the time all three of us were teenagers.

Having your ham license is when the real learning begins and my first QSO was with Roy G3GYH on 7 Mcs (MHz) CW. However hobby time was at a premium until demob in 1955. In short order I was running 120W am/CW with a dual band quad on 21 and 28 Mcs (MHz). The solar cycle of the 1950's was spectacular.

After a year in Bern, Switzerland as HB9ANH in the late 1960's, events took another turn, 'Westward Ho'.....to the State of New Hampshire. When in Bern, Bob Thomann HB9GX (of Radio Suisse fame) loaned me ham gear; once in New Hampshire, Forrest Adams W1FN a Vermont resident, gave lots of help and advice. This resulted in a Drake TR4, Johnson matchbox, and a Brown Bros CW key and lots of antenna wire.

G3HWU/W1 opened the innings on 7 Mcs (MHz) with W1OK, Oscar Hauger.

Over a lengthy period of time I became WB1AGG, then K1DL and finally W1GN for two reasons; it was a much better CW call, and the W1 prefix.

I've always been fascinated by antennas and it's been a real learning experience. If one recommendation is permitted, look up the articles by Larry Cebik W4RNL (SK) by going on the Web.

Now it's time to check-in again on 21.330 MHz

73's

Dave Littlewood W1GN

Construction of Radio Equipment in a Japanese POW Camp

Part Three

By Lieutenant Colonel R. G. Wells

Transcript of a recording by Lieutenant Colonel R G Wells, on the construction of radio equipment whilst in a Japanese Prisoner of War camp after the fall of Singapore.

The Japanese then decided to make a raid on the camp, which they did, and I was then charged and taken away by the Captain; he wanted the receiver and I gave it to him in the end after a lot of leading him round the camp with his soldiers. I could almost laugh at some of the things that happened. He must have told them he was looking for a radio set; a Jap soldier came running up to him with a piece of metal which looked like a piece of horse harness or something; the Captain almost kicked him and told him what to do.

So in the end I decided that I couldn't talk to anybody before the rest of the troops on this parade ground, and I felt so conspicuous. He walked back and said "Are you going to tell me because we want the wireless set?", so I said "Yes, I've just thought where it might be". So I went across and told him where the hole was, and they dug the hole up and, of course, there was the transmitter. He said "Ah, you've been sensible at last", so he took the transmitter and they took it away.

From that day on, I was worried about this because I knew the receiver was OK and the troops would be happy about that; they would still be able to get news. And then he took me up to the platform where he stood and addressed everyone. All he said in English was "You all look at this man, you will never see him again" and led me off. I had a sort of a dying wish, going in on the vehicle to Sandakan to be interrogated, that somehow or other this set could be preserved and, of course unknown to me, it was. They continued using it but not until after about a week or so - their nerves were a bit shaken. But they used it for some months afterwards until the big moves came and it was a successful source of morale lifter.

During the trial, that was when the shock came to me when this transmitter was brought out by the prosecution as evidence that we had been using a receiver, but the Court accepted it. It was never mentioned after that because had it been, I don't think either of us would have been alive, because we had planned to get some crystals from the Philippines and try and fit them in this set then we could call them on CW and give them some news about ourselves.

But we did get some news by other means, via an agent taking a sandalwood vessel across, that the British and Australian authorities knew where we were, and it was proved at the end of the war that they knew exactly where to come for us. They had guerrilla parties in behind the lines, but they couldn't contact us and they had to watch some of our people just die virtually, because they were there and there would have been trouble otherwise.

BJ: Could I just take you back and ask you to fill in a few details about the transmitter. You talked a lot about the construction of the receiver and I would be very interested to know where the transmitter fitted in to this; were you developing that alongside?"

RGW: "No, the receiver first; we had that, and then we started the transmitter as a rather low priority of course, but one it would be nice to have. I had finished the two 6L6G's to make a push-pull amplifier that was the RF output to be, and the oscillator, and we had the capacitor but were missing a few more components and that was about where we were. In other words, in the course of events, had he been an expert with some sort of knowledge of electrical engineering, we would never have got away with two 6L6's sitting up on a block of wood with a few capacitors and things hanging on them, but obviously the Court Martial officers were normal, without disrespect to Infantry Officers, and they had no knowledge of telecommunications.

BJ: Again, the valves you used in the receiver were...?"

RGW: Only one, that's all we had, which was brought in by Mr Mabey. He smuggled in a pipe to me, a smoking pipe, with some tobacco. Lovely gentleman. Unfortunately, I never had long with him; he died soon after being arrested. His widow lived at Hove with her sister; the two are deceased now.

The End

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Newsletter—Editor Stella Rogers M6ZRJ

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Otherwise you can use Snail mail to my address at:

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If you have some great old pics that need to be aired I can share them with the rest of the club.

Best Wishes
Stella